

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Riverside City Council Meeting

Held on

Thursday, May 12, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Williams called the Riverside, Ohio City Council Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Riverside Administrative Offices located at 5200 Springfield Street, Suite 100, Riverside, Ohio, 45431.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Council attendance was as follows: Mr. Denning, present; Mrs. Franklin, present; Ms. Fry, present; Mr. Joseph, present; Ms. Lommatzsch, present; Mr. Maxfield, present; and Mayor Williams, present.

Staff present was as follows: Josh Rauch, City Manager; Frank Robinson, Police Chief; Dan Stitzel, Fire Chief; Tom Garrett, Finance Director; and Katie Lewallen, Clerk of Council.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: There were no absences.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA: No changes were made.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Deputy Mayor Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Maxfield, to approve the agenda as presented. All were favor. **Motion carried.**

WORK SESSION ITEMS:

I. Fireworks – Mr. Rauch stated he has discussed enforcement of fireworks in general with the Chief of Police and the pros and cons of codifying a new ordinance. They currently follow the state law. If they continue to do that for most days out of the year fireworks will still be illegal. The question is how they will respond on days when they are legal as per state law. Rather than pass a separate ordinance, even if they are legal; they have other ordinances that residence will have to abide by any other day of the year, public disturbance, noise ordinances, etc. He and the police chief have been working on a draft policy for the police department to provide officers with guidance on how to respond on days when fireworks are legal. He stated there are two key portions of the code regarding disturbances: 509.03(2) prohibits unreasonable noise, and 531.02(h) prohibits the operation of appliances attended by loud and unusual noise between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am. He reviewed the days when fireworks are not legal that officers should enforce the law. On days when the fireworks are legal, there is a guide for officers to assign warnings and when they should cite violators. The police department will also assign a two-person car from 22:00 to 02:00 when fireworks are legal. The unit will respond to all complaints and will issue warnings when appropriate, citations when necessary, and make arrests, if warranted. They will see how this approach works for this year and can adjust as needed. He asked council what they may want to do. Discussion was held among council. Mr. Maxfield was concerned about having the two officers needed per car during that indicated time. Chief Robinson stated they do have forced overtime and they can do it. The officers are aware of the overtime. Mr. Joseph asked if they were fielding a sizeable number of calls already over the Fourth of July. Chief Robinson replied that is why they will bring in this unit specifically for all those calls. He stated they have signed off on a number of block party permits and this will give them a bit more leeway with those folks requesting the block parties. It also

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gives the officers more discretion on what they are able to do. Mr. Joseph stated it seems to make it a little safer if the officers on duty are already responding to normal calls that when fireworks calls come in there is a team to respond to those in order as they are received. Council agreed on the policy.

II. FLOCK Cameras – Chief Robinson introduced Rick Lombardo the presenter for the FLOCK Camera System. Mr. Lombardo stated that his company makes license plate reading cameras that take a picture of the back of a vehicle and runs the plate through a national crime database. This proactively alerts law enforcement of stolen vehicles, wanted felons, stolen license plate, missing juvenile, missing elderly, etc. There are about 12 different notifications that can be sent in about 7 - 15 seconds. In addition, they take a picture of every single car, so it helps to eliminate a lot of crime after the fact. He stated an example of an armed robbery occurring and a description of a vehicle may be entered and then a search can be done on color and make of vehicle of the cars in the area at the time of the robbery. He stated they work with a number of other municipalities locally. Montgomery County has a number of cameras and they all interact. He provided a demonstration of what the camera does and how it filters. The system can be used proactively to stop a lot of crime before they occur based on what is happening in surrounding agencies. The police department will also be able to clear crimes a lot quicker. He stated in his hometown a young boy was run over by a vehicle. Another kid had a Go-Pro on and saw it all. They were looking for a blue Kia SUV. They were able to find it had plates from Florida; it was a rental that was a lady returned three hours after the she ran the kid over. This system will also save time on investigations and make the department more efficient.

Deputy Mayor Denning asked if it gets the make of the vehicle from the license number or is the software good enough to know the make. Mr. Lombardo stated that no matter what plate you put on the car, for instance, the camera will say it is a silver Honda car. It is not tied to registration. Even if it has no license plate it will still capture the vehicle.

Mrs. Franklin asked where the data was stored. Mr. Lombardo stated it is on Amazon Web Service Certified Cloud and it is only stored for 30 days. She asked how many cameras they would need for their city size. Mr. Lombardo stated somewhere between 10 – 20. She asked where they would be located. Mr. Lombardo stated they have a team that would map that out. They try to capture main access points and every main artery of the city.

Mr. Joseph asked if they gather all the images they take from across all clients and that feeds into their machine learning; new cars come out and there are modifications on cars and the software is continuing to learn. Mr. Lombardo stated they process about 150 million images a day. They had to do some tweaks when Ohio came out with new license plates. If a brand-new car comes out they don't have a lot of images. They don't have every car in the system either. If it is not in the top 37 cars it falls in to an 'other' bucket. Also, if it is a rarer car like a Rolls Royce; they don't have a lot of images. Discussion was held on how their system updates.

Ms. Fry asked who had access for the data collected in the city. Mr. Lombardo stated only law enforcement and they determine if they want to allow other law enforcement agencies.

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A lot do share their information. Also, the city owns the data. He provided an example of sharing information with other law enforcement departments and how quickly a crime can be solved. She asked if there is anyway for anyone to have bright access to the stored data. Mr. Lombardo replied no; he does not even have access to the data. Everything is auditable.

Mr. Rauch stated this is likely to come back in a few weeks. The department has applied for a grant to help offset the cost of installing and operating for two years. The annually fee is based on the number of cameras they get. Mr. Lombardo stated each camera is \$2,500 per year with a one-time installation fee of \$350. That includes hardware, software, and storage. There are not any other costs associated. They aren't buying the camera, just the service it provides so if a camera breaks they will replace it. Chief Robinson stated the grant is a zero match; it is the Violent Crime Grant. Discussion was held on the usage and benefits of these cameras and how it could have helped the police on a number of unsolved crimes.

Mr. Maxfield asked if they have to draft legislation as far as the data piece and who has access in the city. Mr. Lombardo stated they maintain the data for 30 days. In order for it to be held longer, they require democratically elected officials to vote on that. Discussion was held on length of storage. Chief Robinson stated they would only want to keep it to 30 days. They aren't using this as a speeding or running a red-light camera; it is for felony crimes for them to solve in the city. Mrs. Franklin added it can be used for Amber Alerts. Mr. Lombardo added that they are not revenue generating. Discussion continued on how these cameras stop crimes. Mr. Joseph asked if there were competitive companies to them. Mr. Lombardo stated there were. Mr. Joseph asked if they share information such as for missing children. Mr. Lombardo stated they do not; their company is tied with the National Center for Missing Children. Discussion was had on how quickly this information gets to NCMC.

Mr. Rauch stated they wanted to get this before council based on the grant opportunities and the number of cameras. It is something they can use in the short term as another tool and resource. As they continue to work on the budget and determine they want to stick with it, they can come up with other options in the future. They will keep council up-to-date as the grant information comes back.

III. Project Riverside Lease – Mr. Rauch stated he worked with attorneys to create a revocable license that will allow Project Riverside to come in and use the middle portion of the Rohrer Park Pavilion. It provides the city with flexibility to terminate, control and oversee should the building be abandoned, or keys misused. He has shared the draft with Project Riverside and if there are no significant changes or adjustments that will be before council next week. Ms. Lommatzsch asked who would be maintaining the area they will be using. Mr. Rauch stated it is still city owned and maintained. They will have flexibility to do light painting or other modifications with written approval from the city. She asked who will maintain the bathrooms. Mr. Rauch stated they will. The lease also states they need to keep exterior doors locked. It is only for their use unless the city has opened them for other use.

IV. New Fire Turnout Gear – Chief Stitzel stated council will have a resolution next meeting to continue what they started in 2018 in terms of purchasing turn out gear for the firefighters. In 2018, they purchased 25 sets of turnout gear with a loan, which will be

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paid off next year. The plan has been under the cancer prevention program they have to supply every firefighter with two sets of gear. Council was onboard with this back in 2018, and it has been a great program. It provides firefighters with clean gear should they have a structure fire they have a clean set afterwards for the rest of the shift. The stuff they get on them after a fire are all carcinogens, so they need to get it out and get it washed. He stated the 25 sets of gear is at its half-life, so they want to move that to a back-up set and get everybody new gear. They are losing a lot of gear as the lifespan is only 10 years and then it has to be decommissioned. There have been a few sets already decommissioned. They will have 20 sets expires from 2018-2023, and 19 sets will expire 2024-2028.

Chief Stitzel stated the idea is to purchase 30 sets of gear at \$3,513 each, totaling \$105,390. There has been a 28.9% increase since November 2021. Another possible increase is scheduled to occur in July or August of this year. There is approximately a 9 – 12-month lead time to get a set of gear. They don't have to pay until the gear is delivered. The plan is to bake into the 2023 budget and take out of the available funds in the fire fund and they will not need any additional funds. They are transitioning everybody into black gear and it is a great morale booster and motivator. This will be at no additional cost.

Discussion was held on when they began buying the gear and buying as needed. Chief Stitzel stated every firefighter will have a set that is 0 – 5 years old and one that is 6 – 10 years old. Ms. Fry asked with this 30 sets purchase will they need to purchase in another five years. Chief Stitzel confirmed another five years. She asked how many they would purchase then. Chief Stitzel stated it would be however many they have on staff then. He stated he has purchased gear sporadically. He is only looking to replace everything that is expiring.

Mr. Rauch stated they are doing this as a sole-source and not state bid pricing. Chief Stitzel stated the pricing is 11% less than state bid. He added it is from the same company as the current ones they own and has the same repair and cleaning for them and they want to maintain that.

V. Table of Organization Change – Mr. Rauch stated they currently have a vacant but funded community development director position. They also have a part-time admin assistant position that is filled but will be leaving at the end of the month. This got him to talking with staff. Instead of having the one-and-a-half positions, one at a high level and one at an admin assistant level, he would eliminate that funding and create a mid-level full-time community development technical position. Someone that can sit at the front desk and knows enough how to review plans and permits, how to do code enforcement, and be a front-line support to the zoning administrator and code enforcement officer and backfill for other staff at the front desk. It will be a salary savings and a small bit of staff reduction but will be the most advantageous for the organization as a whole. It doesn't close the door for hiring a director someday, but the idea is to increase frontline staff and revisit this at a later date if they want to hire another director someday. Ms. Fry asked what the vision for the community development department in the short term is. Mr. Rauch stated in the short term he will continue to direct the department. He stated they have talented staff in the department and wants to give them a clear growth path and to step into the community development director position someday. This new position will answer to the zoning administrator allowing that

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position to grow with some managerial skills. They will look at this in 18-24 months and have a clearer path for succession making. Mrs. Franklin stated when she has been in she normally sees people who come in asking zoning questions. She thinks it will be beneficial. Mr. Rauch stated he will have the ordinance, which will require two readings, before them next week.

VI. Wright Point Brokerage – Mr. Rauch stated that one of the areas they discussed in terms of the budget last year was Wright Point. As he watches the income tax returns and lease trends for the facilities, he feels they are at a point between Wright Point and other parcels the city owns that they would benefit from a consulting/technical services arrangement where somebody can play the brokerage position and help them talk to developers and put deals together. They have gotten inquiries about the buildings and other properties they own. He wants to have someone in place to facilitate those conversations while not taking up large amounts of his time or the economic development specialists time. He plans to speak with the attorney and has identified some people qualified to represent them in that capacity. He is going to design a legal agreement that will cost them less than \$25,000. He plans to keep the ball moving on Wright Point.

CITY MANAGER UPDATES: Mr. Rauch stated with electricity prices and utility costs on the rise there have been a number of inquiries on aggregation. He has a meeting with staff from Dayton to find out about the program they are involved in and explore getting in a similar program and what it entails. Once he learns more, he will give an update a week from today and next steps. He sees this as a continuing pressing issue for the foreseeable future and he wants to be ahead of that. Regarding storm water, he is working with engineers to double check the impervious surface in the community, so they can be certain of the numbers they are talking about in terms of overall fees and costs. His next step is to take that and start a conversation with Montgomery County. They are reliant on a third-party to help them collect those proceeds if they do move in that direction. He wants to have that secured before going any further into this. He hopes to get answers in June and bring something to council in the third quarter.

Deputy Mayor Denning asked if council would get a reminder on what the projects were that they are supposed to pay for out of this. Mr. Rauch stated he could do that. Deputy Mayor Denning stated that will be useful to them when they need to explain to the residents what that fee will go to pay for. Mr. Rauch stated he could also have those conversations. Once he has an answer for the collection piece, they can revisit the question and reframe the projects on the lists.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: Mrs. Franklin stated she saw a status report from Ohio and pedestrian hits from vehicles are up 23 percent. She just wanted to remind people to slow down; it is not worth someone losing their life. This morning the 11-year-old girl passed away after being hit. Please be aware of people walking and take caution.

Mayor Williams thanked staff for the work on all the items they covered this evening.

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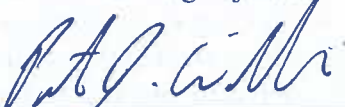
Ms. Lommatzsch thanked staff for setting up the room for the MVMAA meeting that was held in council chambers Tuesday night. The city manager came and welcomed them and gave an overview of what is going on in the city. It was nice to have support to bring people into the city that have never been. She asked Mr. Rauch to explain what is happening with the orange barrels at Burkhardt and Woodman. Mr. Rauch stated it is connected to the traffic signal project. Ms. Lommatzsch stated the people are asking what they are going to do. Mr. Rauch stated he will get with Ms. Bartlett to get the timing of what is happening and when. He believes it will be replacing the overhead for the lights and the timing as well. There will be lane closures.

Ms. Fry reminded everyone of the Saville Hilltoppers Annual Plant Sale on Saturday morning. Ms. Lommatzsch stated she is one of them. It will be at the corner of Marblehead and Spinning; she believes it starts at 8:00 am. It is a fundraiser for the garden club.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL: Deputy Mayor Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph to go into executive session for personnel matters. Roll call went as follows: Mr. Denning, yes; Mr. Joseph, yes; Mrs. Franklin, yes; Ms. Fry, yes; Ms. Lommatzsch, yes; Mr. Maxfield, yes; and Mayor Williams, yes. **Motion carried.**

RECONVENE: Council reconvened at 8:23 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Maxfield moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.



Peter J. Williams, Mayor

Clerk of Council